

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

----- 120328

R 101052Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7510

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 0304

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, DM, NI

SUBJECT: GOWON VISIT TO DAHOMEY

REF: COTONOU 0039

1. ON RETURN TO LAGOS JANUARY 8, GOWON EMPHASIZED IN AIRPORT REMARKS THAT TALKS WITH KEREKOU HAD BEEN "MOST USEFUL" AND HAD CONSOLIDATED FURTHER BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. HE REITERATED THAT FMG WILL JOIN DAHOMEANS IN CEMENT AND SUGAR PRODUCTION, AND REAFFIRMED NIGERIAN READINESS TO HELP NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, GOWON COMMENDED DAHOMEAN AUTHORITIES FOR "VIGOR AND DETERMINATION" WITH WHICH THEY PURSUING NEWLY ADOPTED SOCIALIST PROGRAM, AND PROMISED THAT NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TYPE OF GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY DISTURB TRADITIONAL

FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

3. AS INTERESTING SIDELIGHT ON VISIT, FMG JANUARY 9 WITHDREW
ADVANCE TEXTS OF GOWON'S SPEECHES AT PORTO NOVO AND COTONOU
WHICH HAD BEEN CIRCULATED JUST PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE FROM LAGOS.
WHILE NO EXPLANATION GIVEN FOR THIS ACTION, EACH OF TEXTS
APPEARED CONTAIN PASSAGE WHICH MIGHT HAVE UPSET DAHOMEAN
HOSTS. PORTO NOVO SPEECH INCLUDED REFERENCE TO STRONG CULTURAL
TIES BETWEEN YORUBAS ON EITHER SIDE OF BORDER, PERHAPS PLACING
UNDUE EMPHASIS ON TRIBAL DISTINCTIONS WITHIN DAHOMEY, WHILE
COTONOU ADDRESS ORIGINALLY CONTAINED PARAGRAPH OF "BROTHERLY
ADVICE" WARNING DAHOMEANS ABOUT POSSIBLE DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS OF
IMPORTING "FOREIGN IDEOLOGIES".

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
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